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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/954,964	09/19/2001	Kazuo Shiota	2091-0245P	9017
2292	7590	07/15/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			FELTEN, DANIEL S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3624	

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Requirement for information.

1. Applicant and the assignee of this application are required under 37 CFR 1.105 to provide the following information that the Examiner has determined is reasonably necessary to the examination of this application.

(1) a copy of any non-patent literature, published application, or patent (U.S. or foreign) By any of the inventors, or information that was used in the invention process, such as by designing around or providing a solution to accomplish an invention result. In response to the requirement, please provide the title, citation and copy of each publication that any of the applicants relied upon to develop the disclosed subject matter that describes the applicant's invention, particularly as to developing the features of providing a network photograph service system comprising: a plurality of photo-finishing laboratories, each including a laboratory server which stores picture images as image data; and a single center server installed in a service center, which receives a printing service order via a network, wherein the center server stores picture images recorded by a customer as digital image data, makes the digital image data accessible on the network, selects one photo-finishing laboratory out of said plurality of photo-finishing laboratories to output a print in response to order information transferred from the customer via the network, and provides the printing service requested in the order by transmitting instruction information to the laboratory server installed in the selected photo-finishing laboratory, thereby enabling the customer to select a desired photo-finishing laboratory out of a plurality of photo-finishing laboratories to perform the printing service, wherein the center server stores templates as image data, makes the templates accessible on the network, and transmits information

regarding at least one template specified by the order information, as a portion of the instruction information when a manipulated printing service using the template is requested by the order information, wherein the center server stores the image data in correlation with storage location information showing the laboratory server in which the image data is stored, and selects, upon selection of the photo-finishing laboratory to output the print, the photo-finishing laboratory in which the laboratory server stores the picture image whose print has been ordered, based on the storage location information, and wherein the photo-finishing laboratory selected to output the print carries out processing the picture image to be printed by synthesizing the picture image and the template specified by the order information, and carries out printing of the manipulated

image. For each publication, please provide a concise explanation of the reliance place on that publication in the development of the subject matter.

(2) a working prototype of the invention that can be tested by the examiner. Is the invention currently available commercially? In response to this requirement, please provide the names of any products or services that have incorporated the claimed subject matter.

(3) trade names and providers of any products or services in competition with the invention.

(4) Identification of the true assignees of the current invention.

2. In responding to those requirements that require copies of documents, where the document is bound text or single article over 50 pages, the requirement may be met by providing copies of those pages that provide the particular subject matter found in applicant's disclosure.

The fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 are waived for those documents submitted in reply to this requirement. This waiver extends only to documents within the scope of the requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 that are included in the applicant's first complete communication responding to this requirement. Any supplemental replies subsequent to the first communication responding to this requirement and any information disclosures beyond the scope of this requirement of 37 CFR 1.97 where appropriate.

The applicant is reminded that the reply to this requirement must be made with candor and good faith under 37 CFR 1.56. Where the applicant does not have or can not readily obtain an item of required information, a statement that the item is unknown or cannot be readily obtained will be accepted as a complete reply to the requirement for that item.

This requirement is subject to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.134, 1.135 and 1.136 and has a shortened statutory period of 2 months. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel S Felten whose telephone number is (703) 305-0724. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703) 308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel S Felten
Examiner
Art Unit 3624


DSF
July 07, 2005



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